

RATHKEALE COLLEGE

a foundation for the future



Newsletter Issue 4 July 2011

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COMING EVENTS:

- 10 August Yr 12 & Yr 13 Drama Performance (Auditorium)
- 11 August - Lindisfarne Fixture (A)
- 15 August - Wairarapa Teachers Only Day - No classes
- 16 August - Scots Fixture (H & A)
- 17 August 6.00pm Rathkeale College Board of Trustees Meeting
- 19 August Yr 11-13 Parent -Teacher Interviews
- 20/21 August Exeat
- Week 4 Tournament Week
- 26 August - Founders' Day
- Week 5 Year 9 & 10 Effort Grade Week
- Friday 2 September - Subject Information Evening

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVERS:

- Hamish Hirschberg & Renee Tonkin at a BioFutures international symposium in Brisbane
- Sumo wrestling raised just over \$1000
- Dominic O'Connor selected to attend The Hague International Model United Nations in NZ Team (January 2012)
- Greg Bentley & George Hewitt in their respective disciplines



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents and Friends

The two long terms brings us to a point where we must consider that two thirds of the teaching time available for the year has already passed and that very soon senior students will be facing their trial and end of year examinations. The recent spell of bad weather has done nothing to lessen the enthusiasm of the boys and the plethora of activity that characterizes the college has not yielded. Classroom activity has been equally impressive and was commented on by visiting families this week as they were touring the school considering options for their sons in 2012.

It was difficult to prise away one family in particular and there two boys were ready to move into boarding their and then. The feeling in the school is very positive and there is no doubt this permeates into our local and wider communities. The expression of interest in the school is growing and we have a positive, capable and enthusiastic group of boys "in the wings". There is no doubt that the beauty of our school environment, unpretentious atmosphere and friendly nature of the boys along with what we offer and what young men can achieve are seen to be very appealing features to an increasing number of families. The stirring work undertaken by Steve Foster has been invaluable in this regard and we thank him for the direction and leadership he has shown. Working alongside him, John Lammas has generated interest and enthusiasm amongst the boys in the sixty primary and intermediate schools he has visited in Wellington, Kapiti, Wairarapa and Central Hawkes Bay.

The performances of Senior College Choirs in the Big Sing and the outstanding performances of this year's school production, Chicago, directed by Joanne Simpson and Adam Gordon (Music) are magnificent examples of how students can be inspired to perform to a level of excellence that even they could only have imagined. The Viva Camerata choir and production orchestra and cast have received huge support from the many staff who provide an extraordinary level of personal commitment. The holiday is timely and I hope all involved enjoy a refreshing break.

On the sports fields our teams have performed very well and even though the results may not always be what one might hope for, the resilience and tenacity of all teams is a pleasure to see. I thank our staff and parents for their support, expertise and knowledge. Particular thanks are extended to those who are committed to an involvement with the first teams. Their extra commitment to travel to Wellington and the Manawatu regions takes them away for entire days or, in the case of hockey, nights. I know our boys appreciate your involvement.

Recently, we were saddened by the death of Tom Morison (2005 – 2007), but thankful that Kris Nielsen (2006 – 2010 and Head Boy) will make a full recovery after surgery to repair a brain aneurysm. Our thoughts and best wishes go out to these and other families as they deal with the impact such unforeseen events have on their personal and family lives.

GOOD RATHKEALE MAN

Two years ago, Grant Harper led a staff team to develop further the concept of a Good Rathkeale Man. Bearing in mind, but thinking beyond the school motto Nil mortalibus ardui est, the four pillars of the concept are now synonymous with our expectations and well understood by our boys. The attitudes and values we try to inculcate will be firmly anchored when young men:

- know themselves;
- have an awareness of others;
- are prepared to stand apart; and in the Rathkeale setting,
- know that they stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before them.

Examples of how these qualities manifest themselves were evident in the young men who were awarded Prefects, Colours, Principal's and Blake Awards at our final term assembly. I would to thank Mr O'Gorman for introducing the Blake awards and look forward to future presentations.

These pillars not only provide the framework of our expectations we have of all boys, they also provide direction for other initiatives that have been introduced. Boys in Year 11 now engage in a "rites of passage" (Kahikatea) programme which assists them to become responsible and well-adjusted young men in the Senior College. Year 12 and Year 13 students now come together in Mentor Groups to receive support and guidance from "like-minded" staff and they in turn, guide and support Y9 and Y10 students in a school – community service programme known as Tu Tangata. Activities range from carrying out recycling on the Rathkeale campus, to visiting people in retirement homes or raising funds for Pacific Island communities.

STAFF

I am sure many boys will be welcoming the return of Mrs Lammas next term. In her absence, we have enjoyed having Mr Barr teach Geography and Social Studies. He will continue to be available for us in the future as one of our main relief staff.

Our three English tutors have now departed and we are grateful to Peter Hemmingway and Will Kelleher particularly for their fantastic commitment

to the role. They have immersed themselves fully in support of the boys on the sports field, on the stage and in the classroom. Their work in the boarding house has been invaluable and I think parents should be pleased that their sons have had an opportunity to be associated with two impressive young men. We wish them all the best as they return to the UK and engage in university study.

Five years exactly has been the tenure of Adam Moffitt at Rathkeale College. He leaves after fulfilling various roles in the school in addition to teaching English, Social Studies and Classical Studies. He has delivered Panorama sessions and, for just over two years has been the Careers Advisor. Passion is a word that summarises Mr Moffitt's commitment to what he sees as important in education. This is borne out by the knowledge he possesses and the preparation he puts into every aspect of his teaching. Lesson delivery and marking has been methodical and the feedback invaluable. Many students have sought him as their teacher while others have tried to avoid him, ironically, for the same reason; he has expectations and makes students work. We wish him and his family all the best in their move to the Middle East, Al Khor International School in Qatar.

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENTS

The board in conjunction with the TSTB is considering further developments with the current focus being to ensuring that our boarding houses are totally earthquake compliant.

Work on Repton house will be the next priority and is set to commence this year. This will see the building 100% compliant by the commencement of 2012 and we hope that further refurbishment may follow as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, the most obvious activity is around Cranleigh and over the holiday period work will be undertaken to finish the planting and upgrade the reading and car park areas. Further upgrades to surface areas in other parts of the school are being planned for next year.

FRIENDS, OLD BOYS & COMMUNITY

Once again we thank the Friends' Association for their further contributions to resourcing the school. New music stands, further laptops for library use and the new pathway are recent examples of their support. They are also funding a display of photographs of students and former students depicting the qualities and virtues of Good Rathkeale Men that will feature in the dining hall in the near future.

After the recent Wanganui Collegiate exchange, parents and visitors to the college enjoyed a social occasion that allowed for some reminiscing and off the field fellowship. It was an enjoyable time that built on the success of a similar event after the Lindisfarne exchange last year. The support of the ROBA in co-hosting the function was very much appreciated.

Under the chairmanship of Mr Harper, arrangements for the Rathkeale College 50th Jubilee, in conjunction with St Matthew's Collegiate's centennial are progressing well. Extending the data base of Old Boys will be integral to the success of the weekend along with other initiatives being considered.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Very good results vs Christ's College and Wanganui Collegiate School
- Rathkeale Sumo wrestling raised just over \$1000 to support educational needs in the Tokelau Islands. Jacob Warren is the "Big Daddy" (champion).
- Another Tu tangata service group has collected shoes for the Solomon Islands and over \$1000 has been collected by the South Africa tour group for Missionvale, a Sth African community support agency caring for impoverished families in Port Elizabeth.
- George Hewitt – 2nd place (in AWD section) of National Secondary Schools' Cross Country Champs held in Ashburton.
- Hamish Hirschberg and Renee Tonkin at a Bio Futures international symposium in Brisbane. They were chosen from well over 100 applicants.
- Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Hillary Awards to William Hamilton, James Lim, Matthew Perry and Patrick O'Boyle. Many students are involved in this scheme being run by Liz Cheetham and Penny Bunny.
- Greg Bentley clay bird shooting performances at recent events.
- Dominic O'Connor selected into the New Zealand Model United Nations team to attend The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN) in January 2012.
- The outstanding performances of the orchestra and cast that brought the Chicago musical to our school community.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Term III activities and events are outlined in the enclosed calendar. As always, parent support is welcomed and very much appreciated. Below are some dates that may be of particular interest. I wish you all the best while your sons enjoy a two week break from school.



W J Kersten Principal

HEAD BOY AWARDS PRESENTED AT FINAL ASSEMBLY

Johnty Tatham	Head Boy of Cranleigh House Award For Leadership Term 2 2011 Year 10
Cory Olsen	Head Boy of Cranleigh House Award For Leadership Term 2 2011 Year 10
Mark Sprowson	Head of Dayboys Award For Leadership Term 2 2011 Year 11
Mitchell Ellicock	Head of Dayboys Award For Leadership Term 2 2011 Year 11
Cameron Speirs	Head Boy of Repton House Award For Leadership Term 2 2011 Year 9
Jack Garner	Head Boy of Repton House Award For Leadership Term 2 2011 Year 12
Jonathan Pledger	Head Boys Award For Leadership Term 2 2011 Year 12
George Sims	Head Boys Award For Leadership Term 2 2011 Year 10
Reade Thompson-Trott	Outstanding Service to the School Production

COLOURS AWARDS PRESENTED AT FINAL ASSEMBLY

B Emerson	Cultural For Drama
P A Jennings	Cultural For Drama
J W Redley	Cultural For Drama
J J Winstanley	Cultural For Drama
S B Nelson	Service For Drama
M J Pearson	Service For Drama
O Donald	Sport For Football

BLAKE HOUSE AWARDS FOR LEADERSHIP QUALITIES SHOWN AT RATHKEALE COLLEGE

Year 9	Liam Burling
Year 10	Corey Olsen
Year 11	Matthew McKenzie
Year 12	Harry Clinton-Baker
Year 13	Dominic O'Connor

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

As we draw closer to the end of a second long term it is beginning to sink in that we are over halfway through the academic year.

School life is often such a blur of schedules and activities and there is so much going on that I often have to remind myself to stop and take stock for a while. What strikes me as I write is the sheer amount that gets done at the College on a day by day, week by week, term by term basis.

Schools are always going about the business of self appraisal in the never-ending quest for improvement and we can get into a critical mindset at times. There is no harm in that as long as it is not allowed to obscure our view of all the great things that our pupils and staff are accomplishing as a matter of course.

Chicago rehearsals are over and the curtain has come down on what was a wonderful show. Those involved were often in the Auditorium until 11pm and there was a wonderful theatrical buzz about the place as those of us who live on site ran into costumed, all-singing, all-dancing performers rushing around full of the excitement.

And then there is the ongoing sporting calendar that gives me so much pleasure as I walk my dog around the pitches on a Saturday morning, trying to spend time at every touch-line. There are so

many boys and staff involved and the matches are just the tip of a big iceberg – most of the time is spent in training and preparation on at least two afternoons a week.

I could run through a far longer list of all the things that go on at Rathkeale (from Croquet and Chess to Kickboxing and Canoeing) but that would be labouring the point. The generosity of so many staff and boys needs to be recognized and applauded.

I think it also needs to be said that those who give much to this community are probably the richer for it: a person who gives much, often does so out of a sense of abundance. To give implies that we feel we have something of worth to bestow and that is a self-fulfilling cycle – the more we give away the more we recognize that we have been blessed with much to give (our talents, our commitment, our skills, our intelligence and all the rest of it...).

Perhaps that's why the New Testament puts it so eloquently when it tells us that Jesus spoke these immortal words: Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

I hope you all have a great holiday.

James Clark - Chaplain

JOHAN BADALAMENT - PARENTS' AND SONS' EVENT

RATHKEALE COLLEGE WEDNESDAY 17TH AUGUST 2011

I believe we are extremely fortunate to have internationally respected facilitator, Mr John Badalament come to Masterton. This has been made possible through the initiative of Grant Lander, Principal of St Paul's Collegiate School, Hamilton, and through the support of many New Zealand schools including Rathkeale College.

John Badalament is an author, educator and international speaker and a recognised leader in the area of 'Fatherhood'. His work has been featured on radio, television and the print media in the USA and he has worked with school communities in America, the United Kingdom, South Africa, Australia and now New Zealand. A Harvard graduate, he has worked in state and independent schools as a Dean, teacher and coach, and most recently produced a book entitled "The Modern Dad's Dilemma - How to stay connected with your kids in a rapidly changing world" – this was a best seller in the USA and the information it provides is very much applicable in New Zealand.



Mr Badalament provides a "hands on" approach to dealing with the everyday challenges of parenthood. His sessions in schools around the world have been described as "life changing" ... "his ability to connect and convey his message to parents is superb" ..., "a tremendously uplifting and inspirational speaker".

While Mr Badalament's visit will be hosted by Rathkeale College, the Wairarapa Principals' Association would like to extend an invitation to all Wairarapa Secondary Schools and their parent communities to be part of the programme.

More information about John Badalament and his work can be found on the website www.moderndads.net/

THE PROGRAMME

Mothers Over Morning Tea 10.30am – 12.00pm

A brief outline of what John will cover:

- "Modern Dads: How men's lives are changing and why it matters. He will draw on stories from his new book, The Modern Dads Dilemma, video clips from his films, the latest research, and his extensive professional experience as an educator, counsellor and trainer, John delivers practical parenting tools as well as key insights into meeting the challenges of modern family life, including practical ways mothers can support and encourage healthy father (or father-figure) and son relationships.
- The 4 Practices of a Modern Dad: Creating your Legacy, Showing up Physically, Connecting Emotionally and Modelling Healthy Relationships.
- Take-away activities mums can use to keep the lines of communication open with their children at any age.

This session will be strictly limited to 100 mothers and will be held in the Rathkeale College Dining Hall.

The cost will be \$15 per person which includes morning tea.

Note: All mums, regardless of how present or absent their son's father is in his life, are encouraged to attend.

Dialogue with Dads (An evening for Fathers and Sons) 5.30 – 9.00pm

Drawing on his experience working with thousands of fathers and sons in schools, John's workshop is loaded with powerful stories, practical information, and road-tested activities to strengthen the connection between fathers and sons. This enjoyable, one-of-a-kind experience gives our community of boys and men the opportunity to:

- Discover what all sons need from their fathers, but rarely talk about.
- Learn what the research says about the surprising benefits of a healthy, close father-son relationship.
- Discuss important issues facing boys today and hear how other fathers are responding.
- Do a Relationship Check-up with your son as a way of keeping lines of communication open...no matter what you think you know, there will be a lot you don't actually know.
- Leave with everyday practices for staying connected as father and son at any age.
- Explore ways that the community of fathers can make a difference in the lives of children growing up without a father.

This will be delivered over an evening meal in the Dining Hall and will be limited to 100 fathers and their sons (200 people in total). There will be a charge of \$15 per adult attending plus the cost of the meal set at \$10 per person.

Note:

- Boys whose dads cannot make it for any reason are encouraged to attend with an adult male role model (grandfather, family friend, uncle, etc)
- Comment from Grant Lander, Principal of St Paul's Collegiate School, Hamilton (formerly Principal of Lindisfarne College, Hastings): -

"I have personally seen John facilitate such a discussion with dads and their sons at Montgomery Bell Academy in Nashville. It was an outstanding session, which really opened up some important conversations between fathers and their teenage sons. John's presentation has my strongest recommendation."

BOOKINGS

All bookings are to be made directly through the Rathkeale school office:

Phone 06 3788377 or email office@rathkeale.school.nz and provide the following information:

- Mothers' Session: Name and contact details and number attending
- Support Staff Session: School and Names of staff attending
- Fathers' and Sons' Session: Name of Father / Male Adult and Son(s) and contact details

Alternatively complete the booking form attached and return to the main school office at Rathkeale College, Willow Park Drive, RD 11, Masterton 5871 or scan to the above email address or fax to 063773214. Further information will be provided once bookings are made.

Bookings should be made by Friday August 12th 2011 in order to secure a place. If necessary, placement will be on a first come first served basis.

Any enquiries can be made to Willy Kersten, Principal Rathkeale College: principal@rathkeale.school.nz

The booking sheet is on the back page of this newsletter.

ADMINISTRATION

ATTENDANCE – It is of some concern that the school receives so many requests for departure from school before the Term's end. From the school's perspective this is not acceptable and such requests will not be approved. The last teaching day and the end of Term and the activities are important in the life of the school and we expect all students to participate and contribute. We thank parents who have reconsidered their options and ask that others give consideration to the needs of the school in this regard, particularly with respect to the House Music competition and the end of year Prizegiving and other activities.

The Board of Trustees wishes to bring to your attention the Procedures and Guidelines for the Declaration of a **PROTECTED DISCLOSURE**. This is in place to: "Facilitate the disclosure and investigation of matters of serious wrongdoing in or by an organisation and to protect employees who make disclosures in accordance with the Protected Disclosures Act 2000." The full copy of this procedure is available through the Principal's Secretary, Mrs Jenny McGovern.

2011 Term Dates:

Term III Monday 1 August - Friday 7 October

Term IV Tuesday 25 October - Saturday 3 December

2012 commences Sunday 29 January. Students to confirm courses in the preceding week.



Mark this date on your calendar now!!!

"Le Match" Friends Fundraiser

24 September

WANGANUI COLLEGIATE FIXTURE 2011

Our annual winter sport fixture with Wanganui Collegiate was again a very close and hard fought encounter. The weather conditions were very tough for all the boys. Despite the weather the matches were played in good spirit and the results were very close; unfortunately only the Colts rugby won their game. It was very nice to see all the support from parents and Old Boys from both Collegiate and Rathkeale on the sideline.

Thanks to the boys for a great day of competitive sport and also to David Pereira who led the school in a spirited haka.

The results:

Rugby:	1st XV lost	3 – 6
	2nd XV lost	5 – 26
	Colts won	28 – 7
Hockey:	1st XI lost	1 – 2
	Juniors lost	1 – 3
Football:	1st XI lost	0 – 2



YEAR 10 VISIT TO UCOL

On 17 June the Year 10s went to UCOL for their second tertiary experience.

When we arrived, we all gathered in front of the main building for a short introduction from the UCOL member of staff who was running the day, Dan. He explained that we were going to have to walk through the school to the classroom on the other side of the campus.

Once in the room, we all sat down to hear all about UCOL, and what we would be doing for the rest of the day. We learned lots about the institution, like the fact that there are 110 courses, or that there are three UCOL campuses with their separate areas of expertise: The campus at Palmerston North covers almost all areas; the Wairarapa branch (here in Masterton) covers construction and motor-engineering and finally, the Wanganui campus special-

ises in Fine Arts, i.e. Hair and Beauty, Painting, etc. So you can actually complete a course in fingernail painting!

Then we went on our tour of the school. We split up into three groups and went to different areas of the school. Our group went to the cooking area first. We saw the bakery (and got a loaf of free, delicious, freshly baked bread), and then the rest of cooking school. We discovered that as part of their training, the cookery students have to cook for the commercial restaurant at the front of the school.

Then we went to the BAVI centre, where most of their photography and art studies happen. Lining the walls was a mural collage of students' photography work (there were some very good works there). We also saw a photography studio that can also be turned into a broadcasting studio.

After we returned to the orientation room, something called the Amazing Race commenced. This consisted of a double-side of A4 amount of questions, the answers of which involved us running round the campus and asking certain people, or looking on certain bill boards. The winning pair (Jason Kershaw and Tawhiri Lackner) won an MP3 player each.

We then went off on our separate workshops. There was Sports and Fitness, Trades, Information Technology, Art and Design, Health Science. You'll have to ask the others who went on the trip how theirs was, but I went on the Information Technology workshop. We looked at IP addresses, and "pinged" certain computers in the room.

All in all it was a very educational and entertaining day. Thanks UCOL!

TSTB REPORT

As we draw to the end of the second term the Trinity Schools Trust Board can reflect on a very full workload for the first half of 2011.

Under Tracy Voice's leadership the focus of the TSTB has been the positioning of our Board and the Trinity system for the future, not just the next 3 to 5 years but 10 to 20 years out. This is not an easy ask, so we have followed a structured process to achieve this.

What became apparent early in the process was a gap in our understanding of the 'customer'. Therefore a focus has been to gather and complete a customer needs analysis. Thank you to all of you who participated in the TSTB online survey. We got a good spread of responses across our schools.

The results highlighted a number of areas where you as parents (and customers) had some concerns but also reinforced areas where you were happy:

- 98% said they would recommend our schools

The 'reputation of the schools' and 'other family members attending the schools' were by far the biggest influencers in the decision to send children to a Trinity school

- The Trinity differences were seen as
 - Small class sizes
 - Traditional values and high standards expected
 - Anglican Special Character,
 - Pastoral care
 - Extra curricular activities including music, sport, arts, spiritual
- 89% saw the facilities meeting the current needs of the schools – there were specific comments as to areas of improvement at each of the schools
- A need to improve the Trinity family of schools approach and work as a united Trinity system
- A need to resolve the overall schools structure question and specifically address the year 7 / 8 issue.

We have also run a parents' evening to workshop what they believe is an 'Ideal Graduate' and 'why the Trinity Schools'. Fifteen

parents attended the meeting and actively contributed to the session.

The next steps to be completed early next term include:

- Interviews with a selection of parents who attended the parents' evening at Hadlow.
- Interviews with a selection of students from each of the schools
- Presentation to staff and interviews with a selection of teachers

Other happenings from a TSTB perspective:

Trustees – we welcome onto our Board Archdeacon May Croft as the Bishop's Representative. May has been actively involved with our Chaplains and has had an involvement with our schools over the last few years. She will help guide the continued enhancement of our Special Character.

We are currently interviewing a number of candidates for the two remaining Trustee positions on our Board. It is encouraging to have more candidates than positions available showing us that parents have a real interest in the ongoing future of the Trinity system.

Property Development – linked to the strategic planning are the 10 year property development plans we have for each of our schools. Given the current funding available our immediate priorities are any legal or health / safety requirements.

This incorporates the results of the earthquake building reports for all three schools. Whilst our buildings are all very sound in construction and repair there are a number of buildings that we will need to strengthen further. As an example, the TSTB has committed to have all boarding facilities at 100% (not 67% as required) and are currently working with the engineers to put in place the plans to achieve this. A number of other buildings will be worked on to achieve the desired results.

Rathkeale Sewage Scheme - ongoing planning work to finalise the Rathkeale Sewage scheme plan has continued and we are now in discussions with the Masterton District Council and Wellington Regional Council to progress this.

Trinity Forest - the TSTB is currently selling the Trinity Forest. The forest is being marketed by Bayleys. There is currently a much more robust market than in recent years for the sale of forests, and we are hopeful of a good return on the sale of this investment.

I have recently attended the Association of Integrated Schools conference. Integrated Schools in New Zealand are going from strength to strength and it was good to hear the Minister of Education confirm her commitment to Integrated Schools and their ongoing development. The current Government sees education choice as vital to the New Zealand education sector and integrated schools as a key component in this.

Our school rolls have held up very well in these difficult economic times and currently look good for next year. However we cannot be complacent. We must continue to enhance what we offer and show a clear point of difference. This will help parents (and their children) when choosing the school to attend make a Trinity decision.

The market is very competitive and as many of you are aware the Ministry of Education has agreed to progress the Wanganui Collegiate integration application to the next stage. During this stage the Ministry will be examining all aspects of the application to ensure that it meets all of the requirements of the Integration Act. This could have an effect on our schools and we have requested that the Ministry consults with us during this process.

It is the end of a long term for everyone so I hope you all have a good school holiday break - whether it's time at home with the family, a winter skiing holiday or time in a warmer climate enjoy the time and stay safe.

I would like to thank the Principals and the teaching / support staff for their commitment to the schools and wider Trinity system. You are doing a wonderful job and your commitment helps make us the success we are today.

*Peter Christie
Chief Executive Officer Trinity
Schools Trust Board*

RATHKEALE / ST MATTHEW'S SENIOR COLLEGE NEWS



Issue 4

July 2011

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COMING EVENTS:

- 10 August Yr 12 & Yr 13 Drama Performance (Auditorium)
- 19 August Yr 11-13 Parent -Teacher Interviews
- Friday 2 September - Subject Information Evening



SENIOR COLLEGE NEWS

This report heralds the end of Term II and the completion of 21 weeks of the academic year. That leaves a remarkably short period of time remaining before trial exams and the NCEA externals.

A combination of mild weather and essentially co-operative students has conspired to make this an easier term than many. We are blessed with an agreeable student body who have worked together well over the weeks.

Academic achievement remains the core business of the Senior College. Reports and effort grades are usually indicative of student focus and achievement. This is further revealed by behaviour and discipline standards. It is therefore pleasing to report that by and large, student reports are favourable, interaction and socialisation positive and discipline issues minimal. Furthermore, visitors who encounter our students have

been particularly impressed by their general demeanour. Hopefully all this will conspire to ensure pleasing academic results in the final analysis.

Preparation for the years' production of Chicago has been immense and all involved deserve high praise for their commitment and for the quality of the show. The acclamation of the audiences was justifiably deserved and the Senior College can again feel very proud of a very fine show.

In response to expressed ideas, Panorama has focussed broadly this term. For Year 13 the world beyond our gates has been brought into focus with speakers dealing with Budgeting, Flattening, Travel, Legal Rights and the Work Place. Year 12 were visibly shaken by Tamati Paul's presentation on Drink Driving. This was supported by representatives from the Police, Fire Service, Safe Communities and Mind Like Mine.

Both Year groups also listened

attentively to Mr Gordon McVicar of the Sensible Sentencing Trust and were, in some cases, prepared to be indignant about New Zealand's escalating crime statistics.

Sport remains a valid part of the lives of many of our senior students and we commend them for their commitment and success. In the midst of winter, such involvement is fibre building and impressive.

The Prefect body is well down the track towards delivering another annual Dinner Dance. Held in a mystery location, this is always a highlight for the year and one which will brighten the start of Term III.

By that time the Senior College Edutour will have returned from South Africa, with stories to tell. The group of 35 staff, parents and students are wished a highly rewarding time just as all members of the College are wished a restful and enjoyable holiday.

Grant Harper

CHICAGO

The lights dim, the orchestra strikes up with the opening bars of music and the audience is transported to the world of Chicago in the mid 20s as Velma Kelly (Anna McBride) strides commandingly onto the stage amidst the company to the strains of 'All That Jazz.'

I attended the show on Saturday night and fully intend to see it again before the season closes. I actually saw it on the London stage last July and was really enthralled by the sheer professionalism of that cast despite the staging being very minimalistic.

However, what Joanne Simpson, the production crew and her cast have done is add colour to the idea of a corrupt Chicago that was a haven for law breakers and that, combined with some

really creative staging and superb choreography makes for a stunning show, one that enralls just as much as the London show and which is visually far more exciting. The audience is immediately caught up in the trials of Velma Kelly, the murderess desperate to have her time on the stand and the way in which she, the top 'character' in Mama's band is supplanted by the captivatingly naive Roxie Hart, played to 'tartish' perfection by Ali Marett. Add to that volatile mix a totally gormless Amos, excellently characterized by Patrick Jennings and a thoroughly believable Billy Flynn (Jack Redley) as the spiv lawyer who is only in it for the money and you have a marvelous evening's entertainment.

There is a fine balance between the show stopping dance

numbers in this show and the solo numbers, often poignant and plaintive. Although the show is carried by the lead singers, it is the chorus that sustains them and adds to the excitement. The dancers perform with verve and perfection, pulling us into the spectacle and providing a superb background to many of the numbers.

Chicago has taken months of hard work and effort to get to this stage but once again it proves what school students can achieve under the consummate direction of someone as talented as Joanne Simpson. Add the excellent musical direction of Adam Gordon as he directs an extremely talented orchestra and you have a show which will engage and enthral – and go down in the annals of the school as one of the best.

Graeme Anderson

Photos from Chicago check [this link out](#)

<http://chicago11.shutterfly.com/photos>

2011 BIG SING

Tuesday 14 June finally dawned and 3 buses with 117 students set off for Palmerston North. From the Trinity system 3 choirs went to take part: the Rathkeale Junior Boys' choir, Jabulani – the senior fun choir- and Viva Camerata.

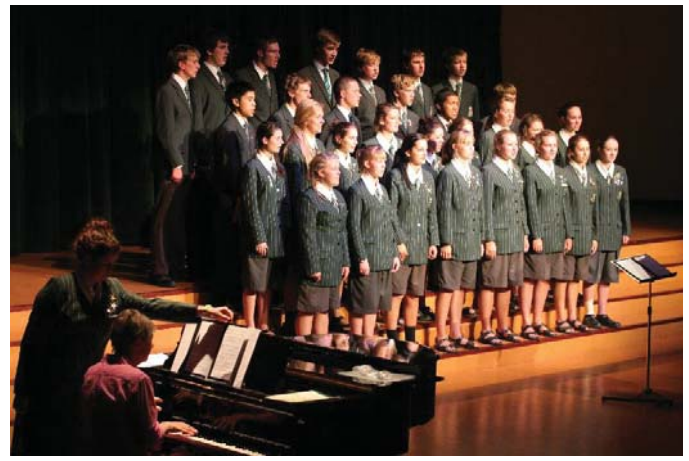
Jabulani [meaning happy people] under the leadership of Anna McBride and Anlo van Deventer performed two pieces: You Don't Own Me and The New Girl in Town. The adjudicator was very impressed with how well they "stayed together and sang with strong tone and purpose." The second piece was clearly popular with the audience with the cleverly choreographed movements. Not only did Anna receive the award for the best student accompanist, but the group was given a Merit award. The challenge is there for next year's year 13s to keep this wonderful initiative going!

Viva Camerata finally came on stage just after lunch. Once again we were disappointed by not reaching the Finale, but the choir performed very well. They started the programme with the NZ Carol called Vulcan, composed by Jenny McLeod.

It was an exciting but challenging piece and on the day we just did not give it the necessary energy that it needed. Our pre 1900 piece called Weep No More finally had the delicate lift a Baroque piece needed and we were ably assisted by Sacha Holt and Megan Wright on the flutes. The final piece was Molweni, an African welcoming song. We all loved this. The adjudicator complimented the choir on their "very interesting and enjoyable repertoire, sung with a great sense of rhythm and style." Next term we will go and see the Big Sing Finale and maybe see how much harder we have to work to reach that level. I was proud of everybody and would like to thank Mr Gordon and Miss Carman for their support, but also for all the staff that accompanied us that day. It was long and arduous – but oh, so worthwhile!

I would also like to use this opportunity to thank Will Kelleher, our local voice import from the UK, for his wonderful contribution to Viva over the last year. Apart from his lovely voice, he has brought a sense of commitment, laughter and loads of fun to the choir. We WILL miss him!

Kiewiet van Deventer



BIOFUTURES FORUM

Last week Hamish Hirschberg and I attended Biofutures, a science forum about biotechnology and biomedical science, in Brisbane. Throughout the week we stayed at the Women's College at the University of Queensland with 13 other New Zealanders and about 60 Australians.

- Day 1 We first played introductory games so we could get to know each other. We were then split into 8 groups which we remained in throughout the whole week. To get to know our way around the campus we did a photo scavenger hunt. This involved taking photos of our group at different places around the campus. In the evening we were introduced to our mentors. These were university students who are currently studying science.
- Day 2 We had 3 lectures, 2 workshops and a keynote address about genetics in the evening. The lecture topics were: stem cell research, how drugs make it from a lab to the market and biomedical engineering. One workshop was about occupational health and safety. This was really interesting as we got to do magnetomyography (MMG) which is when you attach electrodes to a muscle and it shows how different movements stress that muscle in different ways.
- Day 3 We visited Queensland University of Technology. We had lectures about medical imaging and biotechnology. We also had three workshops. The first was about the applications of magnetic resonance. During this one we did MRI of a sample of urine to determine the chemicals

present in it. The second workshop was about plant biotechnology and the third was about simulating chemicals' shapes using a computer programme.

- Day 4 We visited Griffith University on the Gold Coast. In the morning we had lectures and workshops to do with forensic science. One activity I found very interesting was studying bones (pelvises and femurs) to determine the gender, age, ethnicity of the people they belonged to. We could even work out the number of babies the person had had if they were female. In the afternoon, a very inspiring lecturer spoke to us about where science is heading in the future.
- Day 5 We learned how to manage an infectious disease outbreak. This involved running around the UQ campus in quarantine gear which attracted quite a bit of attention! We also did an activity called 'egg drop'. For this we had to design a vessel to hold an egg which could be dropped from three storeys up without the egg breaking. On the last day we had a mock UN summit where we debated two bioethical issues. These were: whether parents should have the right to have their children's genomes sequenced to identify adult-onset diseases, and whether the sale of antibiotics in the absence of a prescription should be made illegal world-wide. Attending this forum was extremely worthwhile. We had a lot of fun, learnt heaps, and met some very motivating and inspiring people.

Renee Tonkin



JOHN BADALAMENT - PARENTS' AND SONS' EVENT
Rathkeale College Wednesday 17th August 2011

PARENTS' and SONS' BOOKING SHEET

Mothers' Session

Name and contact details of person booking:

Number Attending: _____

Fathers' and Sons' Session

Name and contact details of person booking:

Number Attending: Father(s) / Male Adult(s) _____ ; Son(s) _____

Payment:

Mothers' Session _____ @ \$15 = \$ _____

Fathers' and Sons' Session _____ Adults @ @\$25 = \$ _____

_____ Sons @ @\$10 = \$ _____

Total = \$ _____

Method of payment: Cheque (enclosed)

Electronic payment

(Pay into Rathkeale Account TSTB Rathkeale, Westpac Masterton, 03-0687-0024454-08)

Please return this booking sheet to the Rathkeale school office:

- Fax 06 3773214
- Post Rathkeale College, Willow Park Drive, RD 11, Masterton 5871
- Email office@rathkeale.school.nz